

CLAIMS

1. A coffee machine with an integrated coffee grinder (1) and a powder chute (2) where the powder chute (2) serves the purpose of feeding ground coffee (3) from the coffee grinder (1) to a movable brewing cylinder (4) and has an inlet (6) with a manually operated lid (5) for already ground special coffee,

characterised in that

a sensor (14) is present for detecting the position of the lid (5) and a detection signal of the sensor (14) is passed on to a processor (15) controlling the coffee machine and the detection signal is used by the processor (15) for differentiating between a normal operating mode and an operating mode for producing special coffee.

2. The coffee machine according to claim 1,

characterised in that

the brewing cylinder (4) can be swung into an operating position aligned with a brewing unit (10), that the brewing unit (10) has an adjustable brewing piston (11) that can be extended into the brewing cylinder (4) whereby an adjustment position of the brewing piston (11) can be measured and then registered by the processor (15) and where the stored adjustment position of the brewing piston (11), in the operating mode for producing special coffee, has the purpose of detecting the presence and the current quantity of special coffee in the brewing cylinder (4).

3. The coffee machine according to claims 1 or 2,

characterised in that

the lid (5) is either a flap or a slider.

4. The coffee machine according to one of the claims 1 to 3,

characterised in that

the sensor (14) is a limit switch or a component operating in a non-contact manner.

5. A method for monitoring the position of a lid (5) of an inlet (6) of a powder chute (2) on a coffee machine according to patent claim 1, controlled by a processor (15),

characterised in that

a subsequent coffee preparation cycle in an operating mode for producing special coffee is initialised in case of the registration by the processor (15) that the lid (5) has been opened for a certain minimum time span.

6. The method according to patent claim 5 for a coffee machine where the brewing cylinder (4) can be swung into an operating position aligned with a brewing unit (10), that the brewing unit (10) has an adjustable brewing piston (11) that can be extended into the brewing cylinder (4) whereby an adjustment position of the brewing piston (11) can be measured and then registered by the processor (15),

characterised in that

the brewing process in the operating mode for producing special coffee will only be initiated if the processor (15), based on a measured and stored adjustment position of the brewing piston (11), has detected that special coffee is present in the brewing cylinder.

7. The method according to patent claim 5,

characterised in that

additional detection means are present in the powder chute (2), by which it is possible to determine whether special coffee is being added while the lid (5) is open, and that the brewing process will only be initiated if the processor (15), based on the signals of the additional detection means, has found that special coffee has been added.

8. The method according to patent claim 7,

characterised in that

the additional detection means present in the powder chute (2) are contamination-impervious light barriers, other sensor elements operating without contact, motion-sensitive sensor elements, or also contact-sensitive detection means, and that filter methods are used in the processor (15) in order to avoid or reduce false detections of filling processes.